



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 12, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Attend the Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices**
- **Fall Conference dates**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
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ATTEND THE IDAHO SUMMER INSTITUTE OF BEST PRACTICES (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is hosting the 2008 Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices at two locations across the state. At these institutes, staff from the State Department of Education will be presenting on the following strands:

- Creating Independence Through Student Owned Literacy Strategies Across the Curriculum
- Math Concepts/Numeracy Across the Curriculum
- Failure is not an option: What 90/90/90 Schools Know That We Don't ... Yet
- Advisor/Advisee: Making a BIG Difference
- HSTW/MMGW Overview
- Value Added Grading
- Engaging Classroom Strategies Using The SIOP Model
- Response-to-Intervention
- Dealing Parents In: A Full Deck of Ideas
- Is Learning Dead-Who is responsible

The regional institutes are scheduled July 28-29, 2008 at Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls and July 30-31, 2008 at Wendell High School in Wendell. The cost is \$100 for two days and includes handouts, continental breakfast, lunches and snacks. One credit will be available. Scholarships are available to help cover registration costs:

- 25 scholarships, sponsored by the Professional Standards Commission, will be available for teachers in North Idaho,
- 30 scholarships, sponsored by the State Department of Education's Special Education office, will be available to Idaho special education teachers,
- 30 scholarships, sponsored by the State Department of Education's Math program, will be available to Idaho math teachers.



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To register online or to learn about scholarships, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/. The deadline to register is **July 1, 2008**.

FALL CONFERENCE DATES (GO TO TOP)

Here is a list of upcoming fall conferences that are scheduled during the statewide in-service days on October 2-3, 2008. If you have a fall conference that you would like listed in the Weekly E-Newsletter, please e-mail information about the conference to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov.

“Walk the Talk--Literacy Teachers in Action”

Idaho Council of Teachers of English/Idaho Council International Reading Association State Conference
Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls

October 2-3, 2008

Contact: Brandon Bolyard at Bolyard@tfsd.k12.id.us

“Our Sense of Place”

The Idaho History and Social Sciences State Conference
Boise High School in Boise

October 2-3, 2008

Contact: Russ Heller at russ.heller@boiseschools.org

“Connecting Students Futures by Connecting Math and Science”

Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Collaborative Fall Conference

Bonneville High School in Idaho Falls

October 2-3, 2008

For more information: <http://www.stoller-eser.com/ista/conference.htm>

“Partners Helping Students”

Idaho School Counseling Association and the Idaho School Psychologist Association
Collaborative Fall Conference

Grove Hotel in Boise

October 2-3, 2008

For more information: www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference.

“Whole Child – Whole Teacher Regional Education Conference”

Idaho Falls School District 91 and the D91 Education Foundation
Skyline High School in Idaho Falls

October 2, 2008

For more information: Contact Elisa Saffle at saffelis@d91.k12.id.us or Shelly Smede smedshel@d91.k12.id.us

“Going for Educational Gold: Empowering both Students and Teachers”



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Idaho Council for Exceptional Children, Idaho Art Educators Association and Special Olympics Idaho Collaborative Fall Conference

Sun Valley

October 1-2, 2008

For more information: Visit www.idahocec.org or e-mail Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org.

“Creating Connections: Integrated Cross-Curricular Teaching”

American Falls School District

October 2-4, 2008

For more information: Contact kayj@sd381.k12.id.us.

“Fall Literacy Conference”

University of Idaho College of Education, Northwest Inland Writing Project, Inland Northwest Council of Teachers of English

University of Idaho Commons

October 3, 2008

For more information: Contact Barbara Monroe at bjmonroe@wsu.edu or Rodney McConnell at rmac@uidaho.edu.

“Connecting to Improve: Native American Education in Idaho”

Idaho Indian Education Summit sponsored by Idaho Indian Education Committee, Idaho’s universities and tribes, Idaho Humanities Council

Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise

October 2-3, 2008

For more information: Contact Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak at (208) 332-6968 or MOwakwak@sde.idaho.gov.

“Idaho Library Association Annual Conference”

Idaho Library Association

Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls

October 1-3, 2008

For more information: Visit <http://www.idaholibraries.org/conferences>

SUPERINTENDENT’S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the pilot of the Idaho Math Initiative’s core course for teachers at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 16, 2008 in Meridian.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor’s Capital for a Day in Malad on Wednesday, June 18, 2008.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2008 in Idaho Falls.



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WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **IDLA Conference** – The Idaho Digital Learning Academy will host its 2008 conference from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at Northwest Nazarene University's Brandt Center Auditorium in Nampa. The conference, titled "Teaching the Digital Generation," is free of charge and will feature internationally acclaimed speaker and writer Marc Prensky and a session on "21st Century Skills in Education and the Workplace." For more information, please visit www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org and click on the "Teachers" tab.
- **School security vendor show** – Superintendents, charter school administrators and/or the school safety designee at the district are invited to attend a mini trade show presented by school security equipment and technology vendors who have agreed to partner with the State Department of Education. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at the Cambria Suites, 2970 W. Elder Street in Boise. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools office at the Department has been working to solidify agreements with major security equipment vendors and manufacturers whose products meet or exceed industry standards and who will offer Idaho schools a minimum of 35 percent off list price for security products. Companies involved in this offer everything from radio bridges and mass text messaging to surveillance cameras and biometrics. Please RSVP to Camille McCashland at CMcCashland@sde.idaho.gov by **Wednesday, June 18, 2008** and indicate the number of individuals from your school or district who plan to attend. If you have any questions or require more detail, please contact the Safe and Drug Free Schools office at (208) 332-6960.
- **Comment on fingerprinting and background checks** – The State Department of Education is seeking public comment on a proposed rule that will help implement House Bill 566a, a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature earlier this year and amended Idaho Code 33-130 and Idaho Code 33-512(15). This law affects fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks for personnel working in school buildings. Since the Legislature passed this law, the State Department of Education has been working to write a Board rule that will help implement the changes and solidify past procedures the state has been using for the past 12 years. The Department would like input from superintendents, charter school administrators and/or other school district officials who manage fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks at the district level. To review the rule, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/ and look under the "New" heading to open "Board Rule for HB 566a 5-22-08." After reviewing the rule, please submit your comments in writing to Shannon Haas at SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov.
- **McKinney-Vento Sub-Grant Application** – Districts and LEAs that would like to apply for McKinney-Vento Sub-Grants should submit their application by June 15, 2008 through the Homeless Education Web page at www.sde.idaho.gov/homeless. The Web site also has instructions on how to complete the sub-grant and the link to apply for the sub-grant are located on the SDE's Homeless Education website. If you have questions, please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov. All LEAs that are not planning to apply for a sub-grant should submit the Survey for LEAs without McKinney-Vento Sub-Grants, which is located on the Homeless Education Web page under "Survey Forms" subheading.
- **Update McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison Contacts --** All LEAs should check and make sure they have the appropriate homeless liaison listed that matches the McKinney-Vento assurances completed for the Consolidated Plan. The U.S. Department of Education requires each LEA to designate a person to act as a liaison whether or not



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they have homeless students. The IDCI is used to contact liaisons, but the list has been incomplete as not all LEAs are posting liaisons. Please update the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison by going to the IDCI Web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/idci/>. Enter the AYP password obtained from the district office and edit contact information. If you have questions, please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov.

- **M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at BSU** – Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2008 cohort of the Leadership Development Program at Boise State University. The program begins each fall semester. Space is limited to 25 candidates. Candidates complete a total of 5 six-credit modules. During the academic year, the cohort meets one night per week and one Saturday per month. Candidates complete an internship experience with exemplary practicing educators and develop and conduct a culminating inquiry project based on a problem of practice. Admission to the program is based on the applicant's qualifications, potential capabilities, and level of commitment. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA in previous undergraduate or graduate coursework and should have four years of full-time certified experience working with students in grades Pre K – 12 while under contract in a school setting. For more information, visit <http://education.boisestate.edu/cifs/CIgraduateMEd.htm> or contact Dr. Kathleen Budge at kathleenbudge@boisestate.edu.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Feedback on Supply and Demand report** – The State Department of Education's Teacher Certification office is evaluating the annual Supply and Demand Report, which gathers information on staffing and personnel issues throughout the state, to determine how useful this report is to schools and districts in its current forms and to find ways in which we can improve its value. The Department would greatly appreciate your feedback on this topic. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/ to see a list of questions the Department would like addressed and then submit your comments or suggestions via e-mail to Keith Potter at KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov or Shannon Haas at SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Health Education surveys** – If you are a secondary principals or lead health educators who received the 2008 School Health Education Profiles Survey, please remember to return the Profiles Surveys to the State Department of Education as soon as possible. You can mail the survey to the Department in the stamped envelope you received or fax it to the Department at (208) 334-2228 with "ATTN: Pat Stewart" clearly written on the fax. Thank you to all of the administrators and teachers who have returned the survey so far. These surveys are used to assess school health programs, policies and health education across Idaho and are part of a national study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Division of Adolescent School Health (DASH). The State Department of Education uses the information to provide training and support to teachers and administrators in the form of professional development, policy guidance, and best practices in health education and services. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pat Stewart, Health Coordinator, at (208) 332-6929 or PLStewart@sde.idaho.gov.
- **School Bus Driver Workshops** – The State Department of Education will be holding five separate School Bus Driver Trainings throughout the state on "Student Behavior & Welfare." All workshops will be one full day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with breakout sessions for driver trainers and bus drivers. The workshops are scheduled as follows: August 4 in Boise, August 6 in Blackfoot, August 8 in Burley, August 12 in Coeur d'Alene and August 14 in Lewiston. The workshop costs \$30 for driver trainers and \$20 for drivers, which will be reimbursable on your



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district's annual reimbursement claim form under "travel expenses – registrations." Register online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp> by June 30, 2008. If you are unable to register online, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.

- **Curricular Materials/Textbook Caravan Survey** – The State Department of Education is collecting data on how to improve the Textbook Caravan. Please assist us by completing the survey located at http://www.sde.state.id.us/beta/curricular_materials/survey/default.asp. This survey will help us plan future Textbook Caravans to better support your school needs, as school participation is essential for its continued success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Val Fenske, Curricular Materials Coordinator, at (208) 332-6967 or VAFenske@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Pre-registration is open until June 13, 2008 for the Attendance and Enrollment August Workshops. Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the "Attendance and Enrollment Workshop" link listed under "Training" in the column to the right of the page.

- **University of Idaho Fall Literacy Conference** – The University of Idaho College of Education is calling for proposals for its 2008 annual Fall Literacy conference scheduled October 3, 2008. The College of Education, in cooperation with the Northwest Inland Writing Project and the Inland Northwest Council of Teachers of English, is sponsoring the conference. The conference will focus on reading, writing and research geared toward students from early childhood through college, including special education and ESL. The cost for the conference is \$60 for professionals, \$25 for students, and includes breakfast and lunch. Parking is free. To learn more or to submit a proposal, please contact Barbara Monroe at bjmonroe@wsu.edu or Rodney McConnell at rmac@uidaho.edu.
- **Hispanic Education Summit** – The Idaho Summit on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students will be held July 24-25, 2008 at Boise State University in Boise. This event will provide educators, community leaders, policy makers, and interested members of the public with a forum for networking and exchanging information about current education issues and needs within Idaho's Hispanic community. Registration is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Visit http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education_summit.asp to register online. If you have questions, please contact Lymaris Blackmon at the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs at (208) 334-3776.
- **Idaho Human Rights summer conference** – The Idaho Human Rights Education Center is accepting applications for its June 9-13, 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers (grades 5-12). The institute is designed to immerse teachers



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in content, pedagogy, and project-based learning that examines broader human rights issues and themes through the lens of the state's learning standards, mandate for citizenship education, and integration of character education/service learning. Applications are available online at www.idaho-humanrights.org (click into Education) or by calling (208) 345-0304. Institute lodging, meals, and a participant travel stipend are funded by the Center; graduate credit is available through Boise State University.

- **Civil Liberties Symposium** – The third annual Civil Liberties Symposium will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19 and 20 on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. This annual symposium is one of the key events in helping to increase awareness and appreciation of civil liberties both from a historical and a present day standpoint. The symposium costs \$60 for sessions and an additional \$30 for meals. For further information, please contact CSI History Professor and conference organizer Russ Tremayne at (208) 732-6885 or at rtremayne@csi.edu. To register, call Lauri Watkins at (208) 732-6850 or Connie Stout at CSI at (208) 732-6800, or register online at <http://www.boisestate.edu> and click on “admissions.”
- **Workshops for school bus technicians** – The State Department of Education's Student Transportation office annual training for school bus technicians will be held July 15-17, 2008 at Boise State University. The workshop requires a registration fee of \$125, which will be reimbursable on your district's annual reimbursement claim form under “travel expenses - registrations.” Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you have questions, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. Idaho has not hosted the convention since 1997, and the work within the state marking the trail, discovering forgotten journals and diaries, and research of all kinds has progressed considerably the last few years. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is available through Northwest Nazarene University in conjunction with the conference. Registration information is posted at www.idahooccta.org or you can contact Cathy Bournier with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.
- **Financial literacy curriculum and teacher training** – The NEFE Financial Planning Program is available to high school teachers of business, economics, family and consumer sciences, marketing, math and others. You can learn how to teach personal finance in your classes by using the free NEFE School Financial Planning Program Curriculum. Registration is free and includes a binder of teaching materials, lunch, snacks, door prizes, & more! Sessions are scheduled as follows: July 9 in Twin Falls, July 10 in Idaho Falls, July 15 in Lewiston, July 17 in Coeur d'Alene, and June 18 and 19 in Boise. For more information on summer dates, please contact: LaRaye O'Brien at the Idaho Credit Union League at (208) 343-4341 or Lobrien@idahocul.org; or contact Lyle Hansen, the University of Idaho Jerome County Extension Educator, at (208) 324-7578 or lhansen@uidaho.edu.
- **Teacher of the Month award** – Northwest Nazarene University and Peak Broadcasting are recognizing Treasure Valley teachers and the positive impacts they have on our children by presenting monthly a Teacher-of-the Month award on 630 KFXD All Talk Radio with Jon and Chris. To nominate a teacher, visit www.kfxd.com and write a brief description on why he or she deserves this recognition. The awards will be announced on-air on the last Friday of the month. For more information, contact Northwest Nazarene University at (208) 467-8412.



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UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **June 15, 2008** – The deadline to submit McKinney-Vento sub-grant applications. Applications can be submitted online at www.sde.idaho.gov/homeless. If you have questions, please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or TSTrainor@sde.idaho.gov. All LEAs that are not planning to apply for a sub-grant should submit the Survey for LEAs without McKinney-Vento Sub-Grants, which is located on the Homeless Education Web page under “Survey Forms” subheading.
- **June 15, 2008** – Data for the school libraries survey must be submitted to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The Commission is collecting annual statistics for the current 2007-2008 school year, the pilot year for an ongoing initiative. The data will help assess the correlation between Idaho’s school libraries and student achievement. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-library-stats> to get started on the survey. If you have any questions, contact: Frank Nelson, frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov or Debby Wylie, debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov or call them at 800-548-6212.
- **June 16, 2008** – The deadline to file the Special Education Discipline Report. To find a copy of the report, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/SpecialEd/Discipline/default.asp>.
- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund’s 2008 National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program, which identifies outstanding high school journalism teachers with at least three years’ experience who have done exemplary work in the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information, visit <http://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **July 10, 2008** – Applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents’ Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents’ Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education’s Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.